

#### **IV. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A keyboard instrument, comprising:

a keyboard portion made only of ~~keyboards~~ keys in which tone intervals are arranged so as to repeat an arrangement of whole step, whole step, half step, whole step, whole step, whole step and half step; and

a support portion that supports the keyboard portion; and

a performance support plate, which is marked with a scale, being disposed on the keys slidable in a plane where the keys are arranged so that the marked scale is superposed on each of the keys when the performance support plate is slid.

2. (Currently Amended) The keyboard instrument as set forth in claim 1,

wherein the ~~keyboards~~ keys are all in the same color.

3. (Original) The keyboard instrument as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

a first storing means for storing an information of sounds of a piece of music;

a setting means for setting a first key information that is an information on a destination of transposition of the piece of music;

a second storing means for storing the first key information set by the setting means;

a judging means for judging a second key information that is a key of the piece of music based on the information of sounds of a piece of music stored by the first storing means; and

a transposing means for transposing sounds of the piece of the music stored by the first storing means to sounds corresponding to the first key information based on the second key information judged by the judging means.

4. (Original) The keyboard instrument as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

a first storing means for storing an information of sounds of a piece of music and a first key information that is a key of the piece of music;

a setting means for setting a second key information that is an information on a destination of transposition of the piece of music;

a second storing means for storing the second key information set by the setting means;

a transposing means for transposing sounds of the piece of the music stored by the first storing means to sounds corresponding to the second key information based on the second key information stored by the second storing means.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) The keyboard instrument as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

an automatic performance unit capable of being placed on the support portion:

wherein the automatic performance unit has;

a storing means for an information of a piece of music,

a plurality of key touch devices disposed so as to be touchable with each of the ~~keyboards~~ keys from thereabove and

a controller that controls each of the key touch devices based on the information of the piece of music.

9. (Currently Amended) The keyboard instrument as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

a vibratable string disposed corresponding to each of the ~~keyboards~~ keys;

a hammer that strikes a string in conjunction with a touched one of the ~~keyboards~~ keys;

a pedal mechanism for shifting the hammer by a half step to each of the strings.

10. (Currently Amended) The keyboard instrument as set forth in claim 9, further comprising:

a damper pedal for keeping the string vibrated once being struck with the hammer;

wherein the pedal mechanism includes;

a first pedal that is disposed on a lower pitch sound side than the damper pedal in a direction of an arrangement of the keyboards and can make sounds of the keyboard lower a half step; and

a second pedal that is disposed on a higher pitch sound side than the damper pedal in a direction of an arrangement of the ~~keyboards~~ keys and can make sounds of the ~~keyboard~~ keys higher a half step.

11. (Original) The keyboard instrument as set forth in claim 10,

wherein the hammer is capable of shifting by use of the first pedal toward a lower pitch sound side in a direction where the respective strings are arranged and

by use of the second pedal toward a higher pitch sound side in a direction where the respective strings are arranged.

12. (Original) The keyboard instrument as set forth in claim 10,  
wherein the hammer is capable of turning by use of the first pedal toward a lower pitch sound side around an axis substantially perpendicular to a direction where the respective strings are arranged and by use of the second pedal toward a higher pitch sound side around the axis.